

## **7. PUBLIC LIFE AND DECISION-MAKING**

**Elections to the Senate of the Parliament of the Czech Republic** are held on the basis of universal, equal, and direct suffrage by secret ballot using the plurality voting system, in single-member electoral districts. The electoral districts were stipulated by the annex to the Election Act so that each would cover a territory of the CR with the population of 127 thousand on average. Elections take place every two years; it is relevant always for a third of senators – they are elected for a six-year term. The right to vote belongs to citizens of the Czech Republic who had attained at least the age of 18 years on the second day of the elections at the latest provided no legal impediment to the exercise of their right to vote occurred. If a candidate won over 50% of the total number of valid votes in the electoral district, he or she was elected senator. If none of the candidates won over 50% of valid votes, the senator was not elected and in such electoral district the second round of elections was held. However, only the first two candidates who received the highest number of the valid votes in the first round qualified to the second. The last elections to the Senate were held on 7 and 8 and 14 and 15 October 2016.

**Elections to the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament of the Czech Republic** were held on 25 and 26 October 2013 on the basis of universal, equal, and direct suffrage by secret ballot, following the principle of proportional representation in the electoral regions. It is laid down in the Constitution that the number of deputies elected (the number of seats) shall be 200. An annex to the Act defines 14 electoral regions, which were identical with the administrative regions of the Czech Republic. It was possible for Czech citizens to vote also abroad, in polling stations installed in embassies and consulates-general or consular agencies of the CR. The voters were citizens of the Czech Republic who had attained at least the age of 18 years on the second day of the elections at the latest provided no legal impediment to the exercise of their right to vote occurred.

**Elections to the European Parliament** took place on the territory of the Czech Republic on 23 and 24 May 2014. Elections to the European Parliament are held on the basis of universal, equal, and direct suffrage by secret ballot, following the principle of proportional representation. In these elections, 21 members of the European Parliament (MEPs) were elected in the Czech Republic for a five-year term. The entire Czech Republic was the election territory within which the seats were distributed. Any citizen of the Czech Republic or of another Member State of the European Union could be elected a Member of the European Parliament who on the second day of the elections at the latest attained the age of at least 21 years, had not been deprived of legal capacity, and met conditions stipulated by law for the exercise of the right to vote especially regarding the fact that he or she had been for a minimum of 45 days before the second day of the elections kept in the population register pursuant to a special regulation. The active right to vote was limited by the attainment of the age of at least 18 years on the second day of the elections at the latest. However, the voter was entitled to vote provided that no legal impediment to the exercise of his/her right to vote occurred.

**Elections to regional councils** were held on 7 and 8 October 2016 on the basis of universal, equal, and direct suffrage by secret ballot, following the principle of proportional representation. The elections were not held in the Hl. m. Praha Region, because it is the Assembly of the City of Prague that fulfils the function of a regional council there; it is elected under the Act on Local Council Elections. For these elections, the number of seats was laid down for each regional council with regard to the population of the region for 45, 55 or 65 councillors to be elected. The voters were citizens of the Czech Republic who attained the age of at least 18 years on the second day of the elections at the latest, had permanent residence in the municipality within the territory of the Region, and no legal impediment to the exercise of their right to vote occurred.

**Elections to local councils** were held on 10 and 11 October 2014 on the basis of universal, equal, and direct suffrage by secret ballot, following the principle of proportional representation. The right to vote belonged to citizens of the Czech Republic who had attained at least the age of 18 years on the second day of the elections at the latest and had permanent residence in the relevant municipality, provided no legal impediment to the exercise of their right to vote occurred. Voters were allowed to cast their vote only in the polling station of the electoral ward, in which they had permanent residence. A voter could be registered only in one electoral roll. The number of local councillors to be elected depended on the population of the municipality and ranged between 5 and 55, while for the Assembly of the City of Prague it was 70. The pre-determined number of seats in the local council was allocated to electoral parties using one election threshold, based on a proportional system and election aliquots.

Complete results of the elections broken down in detail by territory are available on the Internet at: [www.volby.cz/index\\_en.htm](http://www.volby.cz/index_en.htm) and at [www.czso.cz/csu/czso/elections\\_en](http://www.czso.cz/csu/czso/elections_en).

**Planned number of judges** = the number of judges, who should work at the court.

**Registered number of judges** = the number of appointed judges.

**Division of judges to sections by type of cases** = more detailed information on the structure of judges in respective sections (men, women, age structure) is not surveyed.

An overview of judges from the point of view of their sex, age structure or the length of their work experience is measured only as a total number of judges.